

Docket No.: 98 P 7912 US
App. No.: 09/175,156

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 10, and 16 as follows:

A1 sub B1
1. (Amended) A system for responding to an incoming phone call from a calling party, comprising:
means for receiving the incoming phone call;
means for generating a user alert in response to the incoming phone call;
means for enabling selective entry of a user message entered in response to the alert while the incoming call is pending and still ringing to the calling party;
and
means for playing the user message to the calling party.

A2 sub B1
10. (Amended) A telephony device for playing a customized message to a caller, comprising:
a ring detector generating a detection signal in response to an incoming call;
a ringer alerting a called party to the incoming call in response to the detection signal;
a command interface for receiving one or more message parameters from the called party; and
a controller for activating the command interface in response to the detection signal and for transferring the customized message to the caller according to the message parameters, wherein the controller is an element of a telephone.

A3 sub B1
16. (Amended) A method for presenting an audio message to a telephone caller, comprising:
detecting, at a recipient telephone, an incoming telephone call;

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generating, from the recipient telephone, a user alert in response to the incoming telephone call;
receiving a command from a called party in response to the user alert;
generating an audio message based on the command;
answering the incoming call; and
playing the audio message to the telephone caller.

Please add claims 20-21 as follows:

20. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the system is incorporated within a telephone.

21. (New) The telephony device of claim 1, wherein the command interface receives the one or more message parameters from the called party while the incoming call is not yet connected.
